



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
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*Western District of New York*

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# **PRESS RELEASE**

April 19, 2006

**RE: UNITED STATES V. CHARLES E. HAWKINS, JR.**

United States Attorney Terrance P. Flynn announced today that Charles E. Hawkins, Jr., 50, of Ohio, pled guilty today to traveling across state lines to engage in sexual activity with a minor child.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marie P. Grisanti said the defendant admitted to Chief U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara that in October of 2004, he drove from Montana to Western New York for the purpose of meeting and engaging in sexual conduct with a thirteen-year-old girl. The prosecutor said the defendant met a minor girl on the Internet and communicated with her through instant messages. The girl's parents then alerted Cheektowaga Police, and the FBI thereafter assumed the girl's on-line identity and used it to communicate with Hawkins. The result was that Cheektowaga Police and the FBI were expecting Hawkins when he arrived in the area on October 16, 2004.

Hawkins faces a maximum penalty of 30 years imprisonment, plus a \$250,000 fine.

The guilty plea was the result of a joint investigation by the Cheektowaga Police Department under the direction of Chief Christine Ziemba, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Acting Special Agent-in-Charge Karen E. Spangenberg.

Judge Arcara will impose sentence on August 17, 2006, at 12:30 p.m.

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